



11,135- Proc II

COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20548

B-195577

August 13, 1979

HSE 02500

The Honorable Peter W. Rodino, Jr.
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary
House of Representatives

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This is in response to your letter of July 25, 1979, requesting our views on [H.R. 3458, "For the relief of the J.R. Norton Company"] This private relief legislation would provide for full reimbursement of attorneys' fees and other related costs incurred by J.R. Norton Company in pursuing a claim before the Armed Services Board of Contract Appeals.

Generally, as in litigation in federal courts, legal fees for prosecuting or defending claims in contract appeal proceedings are not recoverable. Lear Siegler, Inc., ASBCA No. 20040, January 31, (1979), 79-1 BCA ¶ 13,687. Since this legislation would result in the preferential treatment of J.R. Norton Company over other companies similarly situated, we do not favor its enactment.

Sincerely yours,

R. F. Kilian
Acting Comptroller General
of the United States

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